



# National Milk Producers Federation

National Milk Producers Federation • 2101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 • 703-243-6111 FAX 703-841-9328

Agri-Mark, Inc.

Arkansas Dairy Cooperative Association

Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

California Dairies, Inc.

Case-Clay Creamery, Inc.

Continental Dairy Products, Inc.

Cooperative Milk Producers Assn.

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.

Dairymen's Marketing Cooperative, Inc.

Dairylea Cooperative Inc.

Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery

Farmers Cooperative Creamery

First District Association

Foremost Farms USA

Just Jersey Cooperative, Inc.

Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Lone Star Milk Producers, Inc.

Martinez Milk Producers Coop.

MD & VA Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.

Michigan Milk Producers Assn.

Mid-West Dairymen's Company

Niagara Milk Cooperative, Inc.

Northwest Dairy Association

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.

St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.

Scolio County Co-op Milk Producers' Assn.

Select Milk Producers, Inc.

Southeast Milk, Inc.

Sweet Valley Farms, Co.

Tillamook County Creamery Assn.

United Dairymen of Arizona

Uppstate Farms Cooperative Inc.

Zia Milk Producers

May 23, 2005

Chairman William A. Thomas  
Ways and Means Committee  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Milk Producers Federation and America's 73,000 dairy farmers to express our support for the Free Trade Agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR). This agreement provides beneficial new prospects for the U.S. dairy industry in our FTA partner countries and we look forward to taking advantage of them once Congress approves CAFTA-DR.

This agreement, much more so than any other recently passed FTA, will provide an important benefit to America's dairy producers and processors. The agreement opens up new opportunities to increase U.S. dairy exports to this dairy importing area of the world. Our negotiators fought hard to gain increased access for U.S. dairy products into Central America and the Dominican Republic. We appreciate the new prospects that would be possible thanks to their hard work.

The CAFTA-DR will grant U.S. producers and processors immediate open access into these countries for whey and lactose, as well as tariff-free access for expanded amounts of cheese and skim milk powder, along with other important dairy products. We are especially pleased that ultimately all tariffs will phase out. We believe our industry can anticipate an increase in exports under this FTA that will result in benefits to the U.S. dairy industry of approximately \$100 million over the first few years of the agreement.

Trade agreements like the CAFTA-DR with dairy-importing countries comprehensively benefit America's dairy industry. Several countries are eager to export more of their dairy products into the United States. In the face of this import pressure, it's important that we be able to take advantage of opportunities to grow our exports when doing so would result in a net gain for U.S. dairy producers, as in the case of CAFTA-DR.

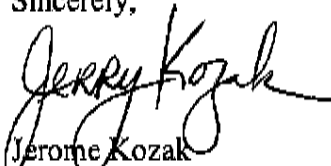
Jerry Kozak, President/Chief Executive Officer

Charles Beckendorf, Chairman

[www.nmpf.org](http://www.nmpf.org)

This is not a blanket endorsement of all trade agreements; some FTAs, such as our agreement with Australia or a potential FTA with New Zealand are entirely one-way streets in favor of our competitors with no opportunities for mutual benefits and very little in potential gains for U.S. agricultural as a whole. This trade agreement is very different in that it does offer benefits to the dairy sectors of both the U.S. and the CAFTA-DR countries, in addition to benefiting the vast majority of U.S. agricultural industries. For this reason, we urge your committee to bring up CAFTA-DR and look forward to your support of this important FTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kozak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" and last name "Kozak" clearly distinguishable.

Jerome Kozak  
President and CEO